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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A composite material comprising a mixture of:
 - a. papermaking sludge in granulated form; and
 - b. a polymer composition comprising a synthetic polymer resin.
2. (original) The material of claim 1 wherein the sludge comprises at least 5% by weight of the mixture.
3. (original) The material of claim 1 wherein the sludge comprises at least 20% by weight of the mixture.
4. (original) The material of claim 1 wherein the sludge comprises at least 50% by weight of the mixture.
5. (original) The material of claim 1 wherein the sludge comprises at least 70% by weight of the mixture.
6. (original) The material of claim 1 wherein the sludge is highly porous.
7. (original) The material of claim 1 wherein the polymer composition is a plastic.

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8. (original) The material of claim 7 wherein the plastic comprises at least one of high-density polyethylene, low-density polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, and nylon.

9. (original) The material of claim 1 wherein the mixture is amenable to processing by at least one of extrusion, injection molding, and compression molding.

10. (original) The material of claim 1 further comprising cellulose fibers.

11. (original) The material of claim 10 wherein the cellulose fibers are in the form of rice hulls.

12. (currently amended) A method of making a composite material, the method comprising the steps of: a. combining papermaking sludge in granulated form with a polymer composition comprising a synthetic polymer resin; and
~~b. extruding, injection molding, or compression molding the mixture.~~

13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the sludge comprises at least 5% by weight of the mixture.

14. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the sludge comprises at least 20% by weight of the mixture.

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15. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the sludge comprises at least 50% by weight of the mixture.

16. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the sludge comprises at least 70% by weight of the mixture.

17. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the sludge is highly porous.

18. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the polymer composition is a plastic.

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19. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein the plastic comprises at least one of high-density polyethylene, low-density polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, and nylon.

20. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the combining step further comprising adding cellulose fibers to the sludge and polymer composition.

21. (original) The method of claim 20 wherein the cellulose fibers are in the form of rice hulls.

22. (new) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of extruding, injection molding, or compression molding the mixture.
